

might come into power within three months in Japan, and that Government might repeal every law on the statute-book of Japan with respect to the restriction of emigration, it might abolish every limitation which has been enacted by the present Government of that country, and we might in three or four months be back in exactly the same position as before.

Of what avail after all are these assurances? Did we not have an abundance of assurances, according to the view of this Government, between 1900 and 1907? I have some of these in my hand. Let us look at them for a moment. In May, 1900, we were told that by an order of the Japanese Government emigration to Canada had been limited to five per month for each emigration agent, in cases of persons passing through the hands of emigration agents; and that the number of other immigrants had been limited to five per month for each prefecture. ' By a letter of the Japanese consul of the 7th August, 1900, it was declared that the Japanese Government had entirely forbidden, for the present, emigration from Japan to Canada or to the United States. It is perfectly obvious that that order must have been rescinded, otherwise we could not have had the immigration into this country which has prevailed during the past year. On the 3rd February, 1903, the Consul General for Japan, whose statements are regarded as official by this Government, declared in a letter to the Prime Minister that there is a total and absolute restriction of immigration from Japan to Canada by the Japanese Government; that the only Japanese allowed to leave Japan for Canada are: (1) Those holding old passports and certificates of Japanese consuls certifying that they are residents of and returning to Canada; (2) families of Japanese residing in Canada and coming out to them, and (3) merchants and students duly qualified. And so on all through the piece.

The assurances which my hon. friend the Postmaster General has brought back from Japan do not seem to be fuller or more conclusive or to offer any better security than those which have been given to us repeatedly from 1900 to 1907. I do not say in this regard that we are to find any fault with the Japanese Government. The Japanese Government has a perfect right to deal with emigration as a matter of internal regulation, just as Canada ought to have an absolute right to restrict immigration to her own shores from Japan. Both countries should